

Claims

- [c1] 1.A computer implemented method for procuring and managing professional services by an organization via a computer network, said method comprising:
- (a)providing a computer controlled by the organization which may communicate with a service provider computer over a computer network;
 - i.prompting a service provider to complete a service order comprising at least the following information to the organization:a file identifier;
 - ii.a description of the services to be provided; and
 - iii.estimated cost;
 - (b)receiving the service order for approval or disapproval; and
 - (c)notifying the service provider of the approval or disapproval.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
- (a)storing the service order in a memory accessible to the organization;
 - (b)upon completion of the professional services, prompting the service provider to enter a completion order comprising at least the following information:
 - i.the file identifier; and
 - ii.actual cost;
 - (c)receiving the completion order and adding it to the service order; and
 - (d)providing means to compare the estimated cost of the service order to the actual cost of the completion order.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 1 wherein the service order further comprises an individual contact within the organization.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 3 wherein the individual is prompted to review the service order by email notification.
- [c5] 5.The method of claim 1 wherein the service order further comprises one, some or all of the following information:
- (a)activity code matched to a category of type of service;
 - (b)identity of individual service provider;
 - (c)desired result;
 - (d)estimated completion date; and
 - (e)estimated time to complete.

[c6]

6.The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

- (a)storing the service order in a memory accessible to the organization;
- (b)upon completion of the professional services, prompting the service provider to enter a completion order comprising at least the following information:
 - i.the file identifier;
 - ii.the actual cost;
 - iii.actual result obtained;
 - iv.actual completion date; and
 - v.actual time to complete;
- (c)receiving the completion order and adding it to the service order; and
- (d)providing means to compare the information in the service order to the corresponding information in the completion order.

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